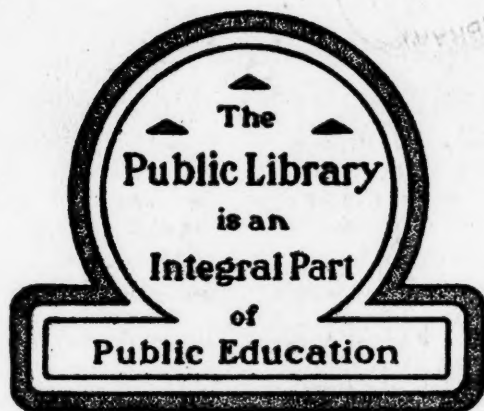


Vol. 13

January, 1908

No. 1

Public Libraries



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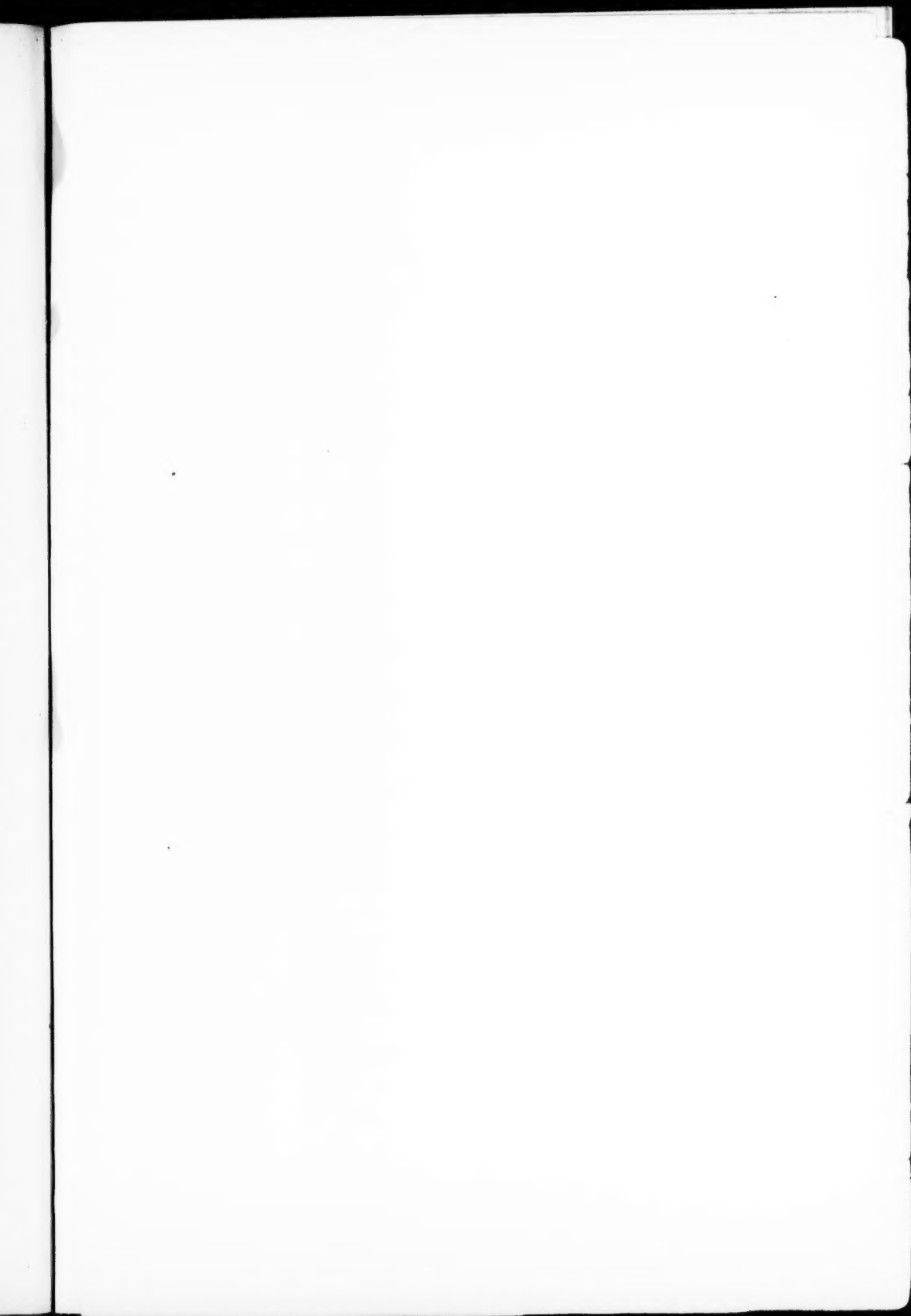
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Public Libraries

A monthly publication devoted to the advancement of library work

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Public Libraries

(MONTHLY)

Vol. 13

January, 1908.

No. 1

German Principles for Selection of Children's Books

Alice M. Jordan, Boston public library, Boston, Mass.

With the thoroughness that characterizes all her educational methods, Germany has, in recent years, developed a system of weighing children's books which is unapproached by us in America, either through the libraries or schools.

From the days when Martin Luther in his letter to the mayors and aldermen of all cities, proposed in behalf of children's education "that no cost nor pains should be spared to procure good libraries in suitable buildings, especially in the large cities that are able to afford it" (Painter), through the Pestalozzian reform of the 18th century, to the present elaborate system of state supervision and continuation schools, the subject of education has received unremitting attention. The special manifestation of this effort for right training, which is of interest here, dates from 1893, when the *Jugendschriften-Warte*, a monthly paper devoted to the criticism of children's books, was started in Berlin.

An exhaustive account of the works of the German committees for the selection of children's books appeared in the *Library Association Record* for February, 1907. But inasmuch as this periodical is not easily accessible to many children's librarians, it seems worth while to outline the principles which control the choice of children's books made by the union of committees.

In 1906 there were 78 local committees throughout the German empire. It is the task of these committees to sift the yearly output of juvenile literature, rejecting the wholly worthless and commenting upon the remainder. As a result of their united labors a list is published at Christmas time recommending a limited number of books to the attention of parents and teachers. Certain of our libraries render a similar service each year to a more restricted clientele. For the German lists are given practically free distribution and are scattered through the length and breadth of the country.

It is not the librarian in Germany, however, but the teacher who leads in this overseeing of children's reading. The public library there is classed as the agency to take charge of children who are beyond the school age. For those who are still in school the teacher is the natural guardian of reading. We may question, perhaps, whether a school-room library in so military a country as Germany could ever permit the easy informality with which we are familiar in a children's room here. But, though we may differ as to leadership, there is no doubt that the precepts aimed to assist German teachers may prove also valuable to American librarians.

In establishing a basis for scientific criticism of juvenile literature, two books of recent publication seem to have been most useful. These are both by the editor of the *Jugendschriften-Warte*, Heinrich Wolgast of Hamburg. The first one, *Das Elend unserer Ju-*

gendliteratur—The wretchedness of our books for young people, went into the third edition in 1905. It contains much material which is worthy the thoughtful consideration of those who are about to write a new story for children.

The keynote lies in the reiterated statement that a child's story book should be a work of art, complete in itself. As such it cannot be a production especially provided for children and with an interest for them alone, but must be equally readable for older people. Wolgast quotes to substantiate this claim a paradox by Theodor Storm, "Wenn du für die Jugend schreiben willst, so darfst du nicht für die Jugend schreiben," a paradox of the type of Punch's famous advice to the about-to-be-married. We may roughly translate it—If you propose to write especially for young people, you mustn't.

Children's books are to be considered always and under all conditions as a means of education; that is, education in the sense of conscious influence. They may be expected either to instruct or to uplift or to delight by artistic presentation. Reading as a source of amusement is regarded as unnatural to children, inasmuch as childhood's normal recreation is to be found in activity. The reading child is the product of culture, and the child reading for amusement, the product of over-culture. A distinction is to be drawn, however, between the æsthetic pleasure felt in a work of art and amusement. The cultivation of a refined literary taste should be made an object no less for the individual's sake than for its effect upon the people at large. But in order to train in the matter of taste and discrimination, books which are works of art must be given the child, and, equally important, we must exclude from his attention the works of incompetent scribblers.

From the recognition of the three objects of children's books, to instruct, to uplift, to delight, follows the regard to be paid to the literary medium em-

ployed for those writings which present instruction. Only men of science should attempt to offer scientific teaching, and this must not be done in the guise of a story. Here a crumb of information, there a crumb of action, gives neither æsthetic pleasure nor learning. We are familiar with the results of reading such books, the child skipping all the "facts" and picking out the story, encouraging the hasty turning from one book to another, which is all too common.

Further, the moralizing story is objectionable; there must be no effort at instruction in the work of art. Its influence comes in another way, by sheer worth of its own, developing character and encouraging keen observation and imaginative power in proportion as these qualities are shown by the author.

Now by this demand for only works of art for the story food of children we may not conclude that all works of art are equally fitted for their perusal. When the time is not ripe for the understanding of a masterpiece it should be laid aside till a later period. It should not be written over or written down to an immature mind which will have power to grasp it in its completeness in time. Nor, on the other hand, should a child be limited to only those books of which he has perfect comprehension.

Finally, whoever selects books for young people must have a care for his own literary culture and have read and made his own the masters of style.

In the second book by Wolgast, *Vom Kinderbuch*, published in 1906, there are two chapters which are of special interest—one on the reading of young girls, "Backfische," and the other on the illustration of children's books.

The author would allow girls to read anything, *except* "girls' stories." His objections to this brand of books are summarized in the following paragraph, translated from *Vom Kinderbuch*:

A certain pedagogic principle rules these stories for girls. The reader is

to see herself in thought in the place of this or that character and is affected by its fate as if she experienced and endured all the feelings, moods and purposes of the chosen figure . . .

In this reference to themselves lies a great danger to young readers. The soul loses its harmlessness, its simple repose; it feels it must deal in destinies and sentiments and this flatters their shallow or sickly emotions. Never, through reading of this kind, does the soul plunge to the depths from which the ever-human springs, never lift itself to the heights which expand the chest and fit us for the battle of life. Light amusements and feeble actions fill the lines of the characters in the story and the mind of the reader. And this in the years when she is ready and eager to pass over the heights and through the depths of being. Such reading artfully holds young people to the superficialities and vanities of life, filling their heads with the picture of an absurdly roseate or shadowy world. It is manifest that the moral views are influenced the more by this false picture of the world the less they are fortified by strength of character or home training. What is worse, the fascinating acquaintance with a thoroughly artificial world undermines two elements of morality. It kills the sense of truth and puts in the place of the altruism, natural at this age, a small egotism, notwithstanding all the well-meant examples to the contrary. Fortunately, in most cases, life unmercifully corrects the views thus gained and the ethical errors of such training, but this never happens without wounds and ugly scars; what has once controlled the spirit remains an influence through all life.

These may be no different, after all, from the conclusions we hear at each library meeting where reading for children is discussed. Yet the assurance is heartening that in another great country, foremost in education, there exists this scholarly effort to raise the standard of juvenile reading. It may never

be possible, or perhaps desirable, for us to acquire so much method in prescribing children's reading, but we can certainly profit by the high ideals and sound principles governing the German system.

Librarians and Architects

So habitual has it become for librarians, in discussing library buildings and plans, to make wholesale criticisms of architects and to assume toward them an attitude of superior wisdom, that it is said, on the authority of one of the leading architectural firms of New York, that architects are coming to feel a grievance against the library profession and are somewhat loath to enter competitions for library buildings. Commenting on this situation, a librarian who has perhaps had as much to do with architects and building plans as any in this country recently expressed to the writer the opinion that the attitude thus assumed by librarians was based chiefly on ignorance and narrowness and was likely to do both the library and the architectural profession a real injury. What ground there is for this feeling on the part of librarians, he said, is found in the defects of a few conspicuous buildings, built at a time when the full demands to be made by the public upon the buildings were realized neither by librarians nor architects. Of late years, he said, architects have been studying with great care and minuteness the economic and practical demands of library buildings, and as a whole are now far in advance, even in these matters, of the average librarian. From an experience gained on many building committees, by some of which buildings costing millions have been planned, he has come to the conclusion that the librarian, even in his own field of library economy, has much to learn from the professional architect. —*Architects' and Builders' Journal*.

There are now more than twenty Esperanto journals, and over 100,000 people speak the language.—*Exchange*.

The Municipal Section of a Public Library*

Gertrude Darlow, Public library, Los Angeles, Cal.

Prior to 1890 very little had been written and but a languid interest was manifested in what are now burning questions in regard to municipal affairs. Municipal business had scarcely intruded upon the library shelves. Fifteen years ago when I entered the Los Angeles public library many subjects were entirely unrepresented. Since that time an immense body of literature dealing with civic problems has come into existence and nothing is more remarkable than the small special collections which have grown up around each of the city activities that have in turn aroused attention. The best guide to this literature is Dr Robert Brooks' Bibliography of municipal problems and city conditions, published as the March, 1901, issue of *Municipal Affairs* and further supplemented in the number issued in the winter of 1902. Indeed, *Municipal Affairs* itself is a storehouse of literature on these subjects and the volumes covering the period from 1897 to 1902 are of extraordinary value to the student of the city problems and indispensable to libraries. Unfortunately *Municipal Affairs* ceased publication with the issue of 1902-3.

Another exceptionally valuable collection of reports and discussions is to be found in Proceedings of the National municipal league, 1894-1906. For those interested in municipal problems from the standpoint of practical administration *The Municipal Journal and Engineer* will be found a useful magazine.

The value of such books and periodicals can scarcely be overestimated. Municipal government must be largely a matter of experiment, and the more expert advice to be obtained the less probability is there of blunder and failure. The city stands for organization. It is the center of the complex web of

national life and new problems and perplexities are continually arising.

The attempts made to deal with these, in many varying environments and under all manner of conditions, have resulted in a literature of considerable proportions with which every citizen should be acquainted and every public official familiar. Civic movements which once would have provoked ridicule are now hailed with enthusiasm and the development of a new local patriotism presents unlimited possibilities for usefulness.

Josiah Strong in his Twentieth century city sets forth the theory that we shall become ultimately a nation of cities.

In his view materialism dominates American life and shows itself strongest in centers of civilization and wealth. The paramount interest of the city therefore lies in the right development of the ordinary municipal activities, and since all are affected by these forces it is recognized that an adequate record of what others have attempted or achieved should be readily accessible in the public library.

The municipal section is difficult to define. It embraces an immense range of topics and its scope is really unbounded. That admirable series, *The Citizen's library* of economics, politics and sociology, among its some 25 v. has several dealing with such live issues as the American city, Municipal engineering and sanitation, American municipal progress, each compiled by a competent authority.

Among the early contributions to the literature of municipalities were Shaw's *Municipal government* in continental Europe and *Municipal administration* in Great Britain. Ten years ago we were all lost in awe and admiration of the felicity enjoyed by Glasgow, a kind of municipal Utopia and represented by a huge work entitled *Glasgow, its municipal organization and administration*. A few extracts from its table of contents will show the various difficulties they had wrestled with and the branches of public service dealt with, more or less successfully—Municipal markets, Public

*Read before California library association, Nov. 14, 1907.

lighting, Public baths and washhouses, Gas and electricity, Health department, Inspection and prevention of disease.

But we no longer need to seek counsel abroad. Men of courage and capacity have grappled with the problems at home and a host of writers such as Charles Zueblin, Frank Goodnow, Delos Wilcox, and many others, have each put forth books necessary to every student of the welfare of his home city. A most notable accession to these ranks and one which will appeal strongly to local opinion is *The better city*, by the Rev Dana Bartlett of Los Angeles. He writes of what he knows, and his table of contents would make a good working outline for any municipality, and the whole volume is eminently practical, yet inspired also by glimpses of that vision without which the people perish.

Public officials intrusted with public affairs need to be informed along the line of their special responsibility; and since few are able to purchase for home consumption the books, pamphlets, magazines and reports which make up the sum total of theory and experiment, it is the province and privilege of the public library to supply information which is needed to supplement good intentions and honest effort.

Every library should endeavor to secure such municipal literature as may be had for the asking. Annual reports of other cities, special reports, such as those of the health offices, park commissioners, street superintendents—indeed, any and every example of civic activity elsewhere should be applied for and carefully preserved as pamphlets or bound as books. If a new charter is to be framed, in the library should be found specimen charters of other municipalities, doubtless constructed after much discussion and deliberation. These cannot be overlooked or disdained, even if we only learn from them what to omit.

When a project of the magnitude of the Owens river water supply is undertaken the library should be able to furnish books up to date and modern upon

every phase and detail of engineering connected therewith. Special lists should be posted showing what the library has pertaining to such construction works, and scrapbooks should be made from local and outside newspapers which give valuable descriptions of similar enterprises. Nowadays invention and ingenuity move with such giant strides, even the most skilled must acknowledge the need of every clue to plan and practice.

The library should also circulate books on public health and hygiene, treatises on meat inspection, food adulterations, the examinations of dairies, milk tests, chemical analysis and all the ever-increasing details which are included in the supervision of the health office. If an epidemic appears, the library ought to be able to supply works by the best authorities on the most satisfactory manner of meeting the emergency. Books upon isolation hospitals, sanatoriums, infection and immunity, nursing, and so on, will serve a very useful purpose at all times.

Not many years ago our library did not contain a volume on cement or concrete construction. But simultaneously with the buildings has arisen the literature on the subject, and today we can offer a dozen manuals to equip an inspector of buildings, or to enable an applicant to pass an examination for such a position.

Libraries should strive to acquire a file of rules governing civil service in other cities, with forms of entry and specimen questions. A civil service examination brings up scores of people in search of books relating to practical careers. Works on surveying, engineering, civil, mechanical and electrical, vanish temporarily from the shelves and surely the study of these books will ultimately give the city more capable and efficient servants, since municipal officers, unlike poets, are made and not born.

The question of good roads should be answered in some measure by information supplied by experienced men, in

books treating of street improvements, roads and pavements, highway construction, or paving materials. The library should also add volumes upon street cleaning, removal of refuse, garbage, incineration, sewage and drainage and allied topics.

Of almost equal importance is the manifestation of activity in the direction of beautifying and ornamenting our cities. From consular representatives abroad, material may be obtained, illustrating the public works carried out in large European cities, which may be adopted to advantage in our own towns.

Los Angeles has at present the privilege of the advice of Charles Robinson, whose excellent works on Modern civic art and The improvement of towns and cities each library should possess. His presence will doubtless stimulate the interest felt in the artistic side of city life. The study, in books of foreign travel, of the parks, gardens, landscape architecture and statuary, of other older cities, must move us to envy and emulation and to the acquisition of the best and most recent literature treating upon this attractive and delightful phase of municipal activity.

The mayor of Los Angeles has created the office of city forester and the library can be of service in this direction also, for there is an array of volumes treating of trees and practical forestry in great variety. We hope to see many new trees introduced and the needless sacrifice of those we already possess averted.

Allied to these projects is the movement for public playgrounds, which affords another opportunity to prove the usefulness of the public library. Books are supplied to and distributed by those in charge. The reading habit is insensibly acquired by boys and girls who have no natural inclination toward this form of recreation, and better citizens will result from such intelligent control and direction.

I need scarcely allude to the dependence of the public schools upon the public library. Hundreds of teachers and scholars alike find here avenues leading

to wider knowledge and deeper culture. If we had no other share in the concerns of the city, this municipal section alone would justify our existence.

The library is no longer to be considered a luxury for leisure hours, but an active factor, a working partner in the municipal firm. If in any respect our resources fall short, let the demand be made more insistent, let each official in every department make his need known and felt, and every library and librarian will strive to meet the situation with all available information. In addition to our books, we should have indexes to current periodicals, which keep continually abreast of the times. Few, indeed, are the magazines nowadays which ignore the engrossing public questions. *The Outlook*, *The Independent*—even the staid *Atlantic*—contain ideas, suggestions and clues which may be followed up.

Heads of circulating and reference departments should be alert and endeavor to forestall the public need.

Bulletins frequently posted, showing carefully gathered material upon topics of present or future interest, will arouse the man in the street to a sense of his share in the municipal section. When the small boy comes up, who is to take part in a debate upon Municipal ownership, let the attendant remember he will some day be a voter, possibly even an official, and see that he gets a book which will make the subject a thing of real importance to him.

If the municipal section of the public library be wisely stocked and well used, that terrible indictment of Lincoln Stephens, *The shame of the cities*, will have no successor.

Giving more than as many thousands each day as there are days in the twelvemonth, 1907 has set a new high water mark for the twentieth century's gifts to uplifting causes. During the year \$121,356.973 has been given away for this purpose and of this amount \$2,132,000 has been given to libraries.

Place of the Library in the Social Life of a Small Town

Lucy Lee Pleasants, librarian, Menasha, Wis.

The word social has so long been associated with dismal church functions, with pink teas and monkey dinners that it has been somewhat degraded from its original signification; but if, as Webster defines it, it really means human association for mutual pleasure and profit, then surely the library should be the center of it all, and not only the center, but the circumference, for it should be common ground for the churches, for politics and for all those cliques and factions who do not get along any too well together elsewhere. It should be the basis of literary clubs and the fairy godmother of the schools. It used to be thought that the mission of the library was directed especially to the mind, but this I am inclined to question, its appeal to the higher mental faculties having been so thoroughly sugar-coated by sundry pleasant modern devices.

We all know how the purely intellectual volumes, which have been bought out of respect for tradition, stand apologetically upon the shelves, gathering dust from year to year. Some day, perhaps, an enterprising person may take Kant's Critique of pure reason and publish it with humorous commentary and delightful illustrations. Then indeed it might compete with St Elmo or challenge popularity with Beverly of Graustark.

When we read of the dim silence and seclusion of the libraries of the past and smell, in fancy, the musty tomes which entomb the wisdom of the ages, we rejoice that our library of to-day is a more gladsome thing. We rejoice that little children come to us for their earliest reading books. We are glad that the girls come to us for suggestions for Hallowe'en and Valentine parties, the hostess for her menu and the quotations for her dinner cards, the projector of tableaux and private theat-

ricals for the play she needs and the plates for the costumes.

If the library is not the center of the social life of the small town, something must be wrong with either the library or the town, and the librarian should set herself to work to find out what is the matter. She cannot, of course, invite the frivolous to dances in the reading-room, nor can she devote any of her alcoves to the uses of bridge, but she can be resourceful and public-spirited, she can be hospitable to committees, she can represent her library at social functions and make friends for it in many adroit ways. Moreover, by reading and keeping an alert mind, she can acquire a number of ideas which people will be glad to adopt.

If it is the town that is at fault, the question is a little more serious, for it is hard to draw the line between being too nice and not being nice enough. If the library lets itself down to some of its patrons it fails in its mission of drawing them upward, if it is too formal and correct, it acquires the unfortunate reputation of being select and so may frighten some timid Miss Muffet away.

I know a library where society meets upon the upper floor and philanthropy in the basement. This arrangement was not made to degrade the moral virtues, but in order that the Christmas baskets for the poor might be packed more conveniently. Better so than that these civic bodies should not meet at the library at all. If I were to build a library I would build one with a great many small rooms that were always bright and cozy. I should have one for the boys' club and one for the women's club, one for the story-hour and one for games on winter evenings, one for committees and one for conversation—not idle chatter and gossip, but the kind which is said to be a lost art—the kind that Cowper was thinking of when he wrote

Sacred interpreters of human thought,

How few respect or use thee as they ought;
Words learned by rote a parrot may rehearse,
But talking is not always to converse—

This higher sort of conversation it should be the librarian's mission to encourage and promote, instead of standing ever like a statue of silence with her finger on her lip. When I read of the French salon and of the great fabric of polite society which grew out of the drawing-room of the Hotel Rambouillet I feel that some such mission might be fulfilled by devoting at least a part of every library to social purposes. Here the rude, the coarse, the untutored, could come in contact with refinement and culture and learn insensibly the softer graces of mind and heart. In such a room I would have art teach its lesson of spiritual and natural beauty and music soothe the boisterous and cheer the sorrowful. Influences thus generated would percolate down through the ugly substratum of our social life until the soil so fertilized would yield a better growth than the rank and noisome weeds which disfigure it today.

A Made-Over Library

It seems hardly possible to one familiar with the library of the University of Michigan of a few years ago to realize that it is the same institution that he visits today when going into the library as it is now arranged. For years its managing board gave it but little opportunity for usefulness, tho' it grew in quantity and quality of material under the fostering care of Dr Davis.

The library of the university consists of over 200,000 v., several thousand pamphlets and newspapers.

The large reading room, which a few years ago had a most forbidding aspect, is today one of the most attractive reading rooms in the country and the same change has gone over the other parts of the building. Thousands of reference books have been shelved in open cases

around the room. Chairs and tables have been conveniently arranged for the use of students. The entrances to the room have been attractively changed by placing in them display cases containing material of interest, while electric lights dispel the darkness which formerly one encountered when entering the lobbies. The librarian has completely changed the aspect of the rooms by placing the furnishings where they lend a powerful charm to the surroundings. Handsome folio cases, new catalog cabinets and other necessary furniture are of the handsomest design, adding greatly, not only to the convenience of the students, but to the beauty of the place. The decoration of the reading rooms is quite artistic and unusual. A frieze, made up of the panels of the Luca Della Robbia, the Donatello and the Parthenon, has been arranged in a way which serves not only for their display, but relieve the walls of the room of their bareness. Brasses, suitable to the surroundings, are both useful and ornamental. Busts of noted men of letters have been placed in various parts of the room. The colored glass windows, with their beautiful carved frames, which were formerly in the rooms of the Book lovers' library in Philadelphia, have been secured by the librarian and have replaced the clear glass in several instances, giving an additional charm to the surroundings. Shields bearing the coat of arms of a number of the leading universities are placed at intervals around the room. Here and there a plant contributes its influence to the beauty of the scene. Several cases of books are placed near the circulation desk. One called the Cap and gown collection, which consists of stories of life at the various universities of this and other countries and discussions of problems which confront the college man, is near at hand. A special case of books for the faculty is displayed, as is also a case of indexes and references. The manner and spirit of the attendants in the library leaves nothing to be desired.

In the reading room, which is on the same floor with the reference and study rooms, is a collection of periodical indexes, where the latest and most valuable information may be found by those who wish the periodical literature.

On the second floor special seminar rooms, with their collections, have been furnished for the graduate students. The modern language room is most attractively arranged and well stocked with material.

The general library contains over three-fourths of the collection and the department libraries are filled from the stock of the general library, changed as occasion warrants. A new card catalog, rapidly being made, is placed conveniently near the entrance and is arranged in alphabetical order. Much of the material of the library circulates among the students. The effect of all these things is seen in the greatly increased use of the library by students and faculty.

Altogether the University of Michigan may congratulate itself on the present condition of its library and especially upon the efficiency and spirit of Librarian Koch and his staff.

Visitor.

An Ideal Hotel Library

Having had the privilege of cataloging and acting as librarian of the library at Poland Spring, Me., during the past summer I feel that possibly a little description of this unique and intensely interesting little library may be of interest to the readers of PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

The Maine state building at the World's Fair in Chicago was purchased by Hiram Ricker and Sons, owners of Poland Spring, and taken to South Poland in sections, 16 car-loads in all, every section numbered in order to tell its exact location. Here the building was re-erected and now stands as a monument to the Maine people in a beautiful grove, between the Poland Spring house and the Mansion house, overlooking the long stretch of the White mountains with Mt Washington towering over all.

In entering the building one comes

directly into the rotunda, where the large table is covered with magazines, more than 60 being subscribed to, and with its comfortable chairs and attractive open fire makes a delightfully homelike reading-room. Out of this room is the library proper, containing 4800 v. The library started with 37 v. in 1895, and out of the whole number that the library now contains only about 500 have been purchased, the rest having been given by the guests, who are anxious to contribute to show their appreciation of the benefits received in having the unusual privilege of such a library.

Each year about 25 new books are bought and that number is soon increased by gifts of money to buy books or by books themselves, making an addition of at least 200 during the season. The collection is well selected in all classes, although, of course, fiction is the largest department.

On the third floor of the building is an art gallery, containing a loan exhibition, collected every year, from the best American artists by Nettie M. Ricker. It is a rare treat to find such a collection at a summer resort and is much appreciated by all the guests and by the country folk, who are constant visitors to this most interesting of all the interesting buildings of Poland Spring.

The building also contains pictures of prominent Maine men who have distinguished themselves and made their state proud to claim them as sons, and of many of our national leaders, some of whom have been guests at Poland. There are many curios and valuable gifts presented from time to time to Hiram Ricker & Sons as an appreciation of their public and private benefactions. A botanical collection of over 500 specimens found within three miles of Poland, collected and mounted by Kate Furbish, is of great interest to the many lovers of nature who haunt the woods, finding many unusual flowers which they are able to identify by consulting this collection.

E. LOUISE JONES.

Public Libraries

(MONTHLY)

Library Bureau	-	-	-	-	-	Publishers
M. E. AHERN	-	-	-	-	-	Editor
Subscription	-	-	-	-	-	\$1 a year
Five copies to one library	-	-	-	-	-	\$4 a year
Single number	-	-	-	-	-	20 cents
Foreign subscriptions	-	-	-	-	-	\$1.35 a year

Entered as second class matter at Chicago post-office.
PUBLIC LIBRARIES does not appear in August or September, and 10 numbers constitute a volume.

By the rules of the banks of Chicago an exchange charge of 10 cents is made on all out-of-town checks for \$10 and under. In remitting subscriptions, therefore, checks on New York or Chicago banks or post-office money orders should be sent.

Library post—A bill for a library post has been introduced in Congress by Senator Lodge of Massachusetts. The measure extends the one cent postage rule to all mail matter circulated by libraries that are maintained by taxation upon the Federal government, the state, cities or political units.

This is in line with previous efforts which have at various times been approved by library bodies. Librarians ought to lend all the aid at their command in support of the present bill. Its passage by Congress would be a great help in library extension.

Librarians as parliamentarians—A lack in the equipment of the average librarian of both large and small libraries that has been somewhat apparent during the past year is a knowledge of parliamentary usage and rules. In assuming a position as a public official, or as an officer in any organization, it is well to bear in mind that these duties carry with them often the probability of addressing a company of intelligent people or conducting the affairs of a public meeting. For both of these occasions librarians should be prepared to meet the demands made upon them. It is reported that the training class in the New York public

library has made the conduct of a club meeting one of the most interesting studies in their work. This is a step in the right direction which might well attract the attention of the more extensive library schools.

The demands on librarians in this particular too often show a very weak equipment and lack of comprehension of the demands of the situation. It is a common sight to see a presiding officer perfectly bewildered as to the form of procedure on a simple question or, indeed, on any action that arises, when often a little previous thought on the subject would show the proper thing to do under the circumstances. A course in parliamentary practice, even on a small scale, is recommended for those who expect to participate in library meetings.

Supervision of library extension—There are 29 state officials active in the field of library extension and improvement. The verdict of all of these is that the work is a strong factor for the uplift of the community in which library extension has been undertaken. There are a number of drawbacks to the success of the work. One of the strongest and hardest to overcome is the proper conception of the library as an educational factor. The idea is prevalent in many localities that library facilities are something for a favored few and that people of small means or few educational advantages may not benefit by the facilities offered by library extension.

There is to be found on the part of many of the library workers too ready an acquiescence in the feeling of a community that it cannot afford a library. While perhaps at present it is not possible, it would be a very valuable adjunct

to library extension if those who go out to advocate the work were possessed of a more amplified comprehension of material things and would therefore be able to develop corresponding ideas on the part of library authorities as to the amount required to carry on the work. As Mr Hutchins of Wisconsin once said, we cheapen library work by assuming that a good library may be started in a community by a little enthusiasm, a few old books and almost no money. The example of the late President Harper of the University of Chicago is one that might well be followed by those who are presenting the doctrine of library extension. Dr Harper believed that the work of an institution was measured by the demands it made. When he wanted money he asked for a million, or hundreds of thousands at least, and obtained it.

Library workers should emphasize the value of providing adequately of the best that is to be had, in a hopeful, helpful way that need not discourage even the smallest community, but rather serve to lift its ideals higher.

When a community thinks it can have a library by cheaply equipping the quarters, by buying books sparingly, by having but few good periodicals, in charge of a librarian who thinks only in two figures, there is a valuable factor absent that is necessary to the success of the undertaking. Business men are more easily interested in large projects than in small ones. Large projects are better for a community than small ones. The word of a librarian who is receiving a living wage will be more effective in a community than one who is living on starvation's edge. A well-equipped library will appeal not only to the intelli-

gence, but to the generosity of those who have money to give.

The educational value of good surroundings must not be forgotten in considering the place of the library. Often in the smallest community a library, made up of clean, well bound, attractive books, housed with proper equipment of good quality in a clean attractive room, presided over by a well-prepared, prosperous-looking librarian will prove a source of inspiration and ambition to every young person who enters its doors. Instances are being cited, almost without number, of the transformation the library has made in a community where a librarian with the foregoing ideas has succeeded one of the "please-forgive-me-for living" sort who existed on scraps thrown out at intervals in an almost grudging fashion.

Library boards ought not to be allowed to conclude that after they have built a corniced and pillared stone pile through the benefactions of Mr Carnegie that they have any right to point with pride to it as a public library unless it is well furnished, well stocked with books and presided over by a well paid, live librarian in touch with all the library movements of the day. And bringing these conditions about is no small part of the duties of the library organizer who undertakes the work of library extension.

The library year of 1907—The past year in library effort in the United States has seen steady growth and satisfactory development, for the most part, of library extension.

In the A. L. A. circle there is still a feeling of uncertainty as to headquarters and related matters, but there is reason to hope that some wisdom has

been gained from the discussions and efforts in regard to the matter. It is probable that definite action on plans for the future will not be taken before the Minnetonka meeting.

Official relations of the A. L. A. with outside business concerns, which have been maintained since the early days when librarians themselves started Library Bureau, were finally terminated last summer, when the last tie of the kind was severed in the acceptance of the resignation of the *Library Journal* as the official organ. The A. L. A. in its youth, had to depend on outside help to establish itself and its ideals. But, with the development of professional standing in library work, it is proper that no entangling alliances should hamper its attitude toward questions of general interest. While in no way disparaging the splendid work done by the *Library Journal* it must be plain that since the A. L. A. maintains a Publishing Board, it should itself issue whatever official utterances are to be published.

The matter of restricting the free importation of books by libraries, reached a satisfactory stage early in 1907, thanks to the Copyright league, though, of course, the matter has not yet been finally settled and will still need attention and effort to prevent any changes slipping in at the final passage of the measure.

The matter is again before Congress, bills in which the importation by libraries is covered having been introduced in both branches last month. Senate bill 2499 and House bill 243 must be watched by librarians and approved as opportunity offers. (See page 34.)

Library schools report larger enrollment of well-equipped students and the general average of library workers con-

tinues to rise. There is some room, it must be said, for a broadening of the equipment of a few of the schools themselves, though those that are called standard offer opportunities of acquiring a broader culture as well as practical experience to test theories, that are notable in their high standard. The attempt to hold a conference of faculties of the library schools at Asheville, marked a point of development from which much may be expected.

Work among library commissions has had a year of progress and success. Two new commissions, Missouri and North Dakota, joined those already at work. Strong efforts made in Kansas and Illinois for state supervision of library extension were without permanent effect, though both may be reported as progress.

It is a matter of congratulation to librarians, generally, that the Library of Congress continues to be a growing source of helpfulness, not only to individual libraries, but in its constantly increasing position of dignity and worth among the great libraries of the world, a position which, by reflection, adds to the appreciation of all libraries on the part of the enlightened general public. The last report of the Library of Congress just issued shows that it has advanced to third place among the great libraries of the world in size, while in the variety and extent of its activities it probably ranks first.

There is "much land to be possessed" still in library endeavor and its accomplishment calls for the honest, unselfish coöperation of all in touch with library affairs. There are important questions to be decided in the coming year, and to their discussion everyone should bring his best gifts, with an eye single to the greatest good to the greatest number.

Library Reading Course

The results of the Reading course given in PUBLIC LIBRARIES for 1906 in the line of awakened professional interest were so satisfactory, and such a large number of readers have requested a continuance of the work, that these columns will present again during the coming year, some suggestions along the line of professional reading that will be designed to help those who follow its lead to a more general comprehension of library work as it is being presented today.

As in the previous reading, there will be but little material of a purely technical character, as it has been fully demonstrated that only the occasional student can acquire anything like a clear idea of library technique by reading or instruction without personal contact with teacher or materials. Therefore, the course will deal with the development of the work from a historical standpoint, rather than from the point of library science.

Another point that will be kept in mind will be that many of the readers do not have a very wide opportunity to consult library literature of bygone days. An effort will be made, therefore, to keep the references to convenient sources, many times to current material, in the hope that all those who begin may continue to the end of the course. In every case, however, the source will be authoritative, so that there may not be any chance of wrong impressions.

The League of library commission has indorsed the Reading course and at the annual meeting this month in Chicago will stamp the work with its approval by assigning to different members certain duties to be performed in relation to the work.

The library commissions of the various states, as a rule, are willing to provide, in a measure, the material for any reader who may apply to them for it. They are always glad

to send especially the printed material relating to their own work.

It is possible, also, that the A. L. A. Publishing Board may assist by reprinting in convenient form material needed.

It is recommended that where two or more may come together for the library reading that this be done, as there is a special pleasure as well as power in the association of combined effort.

Those readers who do not have the following are urged to procure them:

On libraries for librarians, Melvil Dewey.

Dodd, Mead & Co., New York. No charge.

Public libraries in America, W. I. Fletcher.

Little, Brown & Co., Boston. \$1.

Library primer, J. C. Dana. Library Bureau,

Chicago. \$1.

Pros and cons of training for librarians, Mary

W. Plummer. Library Bureau, Chicago.

No charge.

Public libraries. Library Bureau, Chicago. \$1.

Preliminary Reading for January.

The organization of libraries in United States. PUBLIC LIBRARIES 11:11-12.

The sphere of the library. PUBLIC LIBRARIES 11:3-5.

The library as a social center. PUBLIC LIBRARIES 11:5-7.

There is need for those who preach "the gospel of the book" to others to be well acquainted with books themselves and particularly the books of their craft that contain its doctrine generally.

That ever-to-be-honored library pioneer of Wisconsin, F. A. Hutchins, once said for the inspiration of the general public what well may be taken to heart by the young librarian:

An ability to glean information quickly and accurately from books and periodicals, to catch a fact when it is needed and useful, is an indispensable factor in that self-education which all citizens should add to the education obtained in the school. The schools cannot give a wide range of knowledge, but they can give the desire for knowledge; and the library can give the opportunity to gain it.

With this thought in mind, and the opportunity to use books, librarians may add to their faith, knowledge.

Statistics of Libraries in U. S.

Suggestions as to report of Bureau of education

The Commissioner of education has received from the secretary of the American library association the following suggestions relating to the forthcoming statistics of libraries:

1) The summaries (page 759-78 in the 1903 Com. of Ed. report) are excellent in scope and arrangement and may well be continued just as they are.

2) It is desirable to add to the 19 headings under which is grouped the material forming the body of the report the following items:

Total expenditures, subdivided into books (to include binding and periodicals).

Salaries.

Other expenses.

If in order to include these items it becomes necessary to omit any of the present 19 items, it would seem that nos. 4, 10 and 17 could best be spared from the tables, although it is to be hoped that they would continue to figure in the introductory summaries.

3) It would be very desirable to have the Bureau of education append to the statistical summaries or to the volume a digest of the library laws of the several states. Such a compilation would prove of immense service to all library workers and specially to those engaged in the work of library extension. The material of this sort is widely scattered and much of it so difficult to procure that it is very much needed in consolidated form.

4) There are now 27 state library commissions, including three state libraries which are charged with similar duties, and from the states represented thus accurate and reliable lists of libraries could be furnished. If you could send out detailed instructions and copies of your forms, the library commission in each state could furnish the entire section of tables ready for the printer. It may also be possible for the League of library commissions (an organization affiliated with the A. L. A.), through correspondence with interested librarians in non-commission states, to secure similar lists from the latter. It is the absence of reports from many of the libraries in different states and in the out-of-date information supplied that the statistical tables in your report heretofore have proven unsatisfactory. I can assure you of the active agency of the League of library commissions in this matter which we venture to hope may prove of service to the Bureau of education in making your statistics as complete, as accurate and up to date as it is possible to make them.

5) Owing to the rapid amplification and widespread distribution of state, county and

proprietary traveling library systems, the suggestion is submitted that if a separate summary of statistics showing date, headquarters, source of support, annual expenditure, number of books, total circulation, etc., can be included in the report, it will be more representative of American library work. The table on page 75 of the Handbook of the League of library commissions for 1907 is cited as furnishing a basis for such a feature of your report.

6) The American library association is very ready to serve the Bureau of education at any time and to any extent with suggestion or comment. It is hoped that the coöperation of the League of library commissions and its component members will make it possible to issue the statistical report within a few months after the actual compilation of the data.

The Commissioner of education would be glad to receive further suggestions regarding these statistical schedules.

Bureau of Education,

Washington, D. C.

Interesting Things in Print

The Carnegie library of Homestead, Pa., has issued a list of some 150 titles of books by Catholic authors. The library has also issued a list of books in the German language.

The November issue of the A. L. A. booklist has a bibliography on Sunday-school work by F. K. W. Drury, librarian in the University of Illinois.

The free public library of Worcester, Mass., has issued a catalog of books in the children's department of that library. The collection is quite extensive, covering some 225 pages and may be recommended to those who are interested in choosing children's books. A subject list for the use of teachers is included in the volume.

The new McDevitt-Wilson catalog of 1000 children's books offered at special prices is a work of special merit. It is an artistic bit of good book-making in itself and the list is compiled by leading teachers' and children's librarians. It has much of the material that is listed in A. L. A. catalog. It is well worth having at hand.

Library Hints

The proceedings of the American forest congress, held in Washington in 1905, may be had from the American forestry association by any library sending 20 cents to cover postage and packing of the book. This offer is for the purpose of giving friends of forestry an easy and inexpensive method of pushing the propaganda. The proceedings contain the most practical books on the subject of forestry in the English language.

A course of reading instituted by the Stepney borough (London) public libraries in 1903 continues to form a favorite part of the community's educational scheme. Its object is to encourage systematic reading and profitable discussions and for this purpose meetings are held at the borough reference library on alternate Thursday evenings throughout the year. Any person holding a reader's card is eligible for free membership. Visitors are welcome at all meetings. The average attendance is 50 adult persons, mostly young men, and very interesting discussions take place. Each discussion is preceded by a paper, a practice which prevents the debates becoming too discursive. The movement has the name of the Stepney readers' union, and the borough librarian, A. Cawthorne, is chairman.

A scheme for caring for biographical material that is approved by the Public library of Duluth, Minn., is the following:

A large envelope is pasted on the back of a gray cardboard. Into this envelope go all sorts of magazine and newspaper clippings about the author. On the gray cardboard is a good picture of the celebrity, cut from some magazine. Anyone seeking for information on a certain author, particularly if he is a modern light, is handed one of these envelopes. The plan has met with great favor by the public, particularly the teachers in the schools.

In the same way envelopes have been prepared, containing information on col-

leges, holidays and countries. A series on present-day artists has been started. Large envelopes contain the magazine covers and such other specimens of their work as can be obtained. All the envelopes are arranged with a card index.

Civic Improvement Literature

The following list is recommended by the American civic association as being general improvement literature, and libraries are asked to help in bringing it to the attention of those who should be interested in civic improvement:

American municipal progress, Charles Zueblin. The Macmillan Co.

Art out-of-doors. Mrs. Schuyler van Rensselaer. Charles Scribner's Sons.

How to plan the home grounds, Samuel Parsons, jr. Doubleday, Page & Co.

How to make school gardens, H. D. Hemenway. Doubleday, Page & Co.

The nature study idea, L. H. Bailey. Doubleday, Page & Co.

Charles Eliot, Landscape architect, Charles W. Eliot. Houghton, Mifflin & Co.

Modern civic art, Charles Mulford Robinson. G. P. Putman's Sons.

The improvement of towns and cities, Charles Mulford Robinson. G. P. Putman's Sons.

Getting acquainted with trees, J. Horace McFarland. Macmillan Co.

Decade of civic improvement, Charles Zueblin. University of Chicago Press.

The country boy, O. J. Kern.

Hardy plants, J. Wilkinson Elliot. Doubleday, Page & Co.

Little gardens, Charles R. Skinner. D. Appleton Co.

Forest trees and forest scenery, G. Frederick Schwartz. The Grafton Press.

First county park system, Frederick W. Kelsey.

The garden and its accessories, Loring Underwood. Little, Brown & Co.

A plea for hardy plants, J. Wilkinson Elliot. Doubleday, Page & Co.

Those who are or should be interested in civic betterment will find *The better city*, by Dana W. Bartlett, an inspiration and a help. It is plain speech from a practical worker in social service. Los Angeles may well be thankful that she has the service of one who thinks and speaks of her in such a way. The book is interesting for all serious readers.

Library Institute in Illinois.

The first library institute in Illinois for the year 1907-1908 was held at Jacksonville, November 21-22. It was under the direct supervision of Miss Drake, librarian of Jacksonville, who deserves much credit for the hard work and close attention she bestowed upon preparations for it. It was widely advertised in that part of the state, but, as usual in Illinois, it was most largely attended by those who least needed the help of such an occasion. Librarians from Decatur, Hillsboro, Havana, Winchester, Carrollton, Petersburg and Jerseyville were present.

A gratifying fact in connection with the institute was the interest displayed by the public school teachers of the vicinity and by club women of Jacksonville.

The addresses given were of a high order, full of practical suggestions, encouraging information and interesting material, being, in fact, of better quality than is often heard at state meetings. The principal speakers were Frances Simpson of the Illinois library school, University of Illinois; subject, Value of the library to teachers and study club members; H. A. McGill, principal of Jacksonville high school; subject, The library from the school point of view; Mary Eileen Ahern, president of the Illinois library association; subject, State supervision of library extension; Hon. F. J. Heintz, representative in legislature; subject, Some difficulties in library legislation for Illinois.

The round table on Thursday afternoon took up Book buying and distributing, advertising circulation, reports and library essentials, led by Jeannette M. Drake. It was continued on Friday morning when Edna Curtis of the Jacksonville library illustrated a helpful talk on mending and binding books by actual work. Mrs. Kate Meade Howze, also of the Jacksonville library, talked on work with children and told a story to illustrate it. A question box conducted by Miss Ahern concluded the morning's

work. The collection of material on exhibition was a source of help to the visitors. Jacksonville public library itself furnished a good object lesson of a well-organized, well-equipped library. There was an exhibit of picture bulletins, kindly loaned by the New York state library school, that attracted much attention.

Libraries and Schools

A training course

A library course has been entered in the Washington Irving high school in New York city.

This course, just established by the Board of education in response to a persistent demand in certain quarters, covers the second two of a four years' course. The New York public library has recognized it as being a special preparation for its training class and has agreed to give it general oversight. Its graduates would be preferred to others in making appointments in the class of unskilled assistants, and after six months' training or experience in the circulation department of the library, would be admitted to the examinations for the regular graded force in that department. The course includes all the history that is taught in the high schools, two hours a week more of English throughout the course than the other pupils have, the extra hours being planned with special reference to the needs of library assistants; continuation of foreign language study begun earlier in the course.

In periods under the direction of the instructor in the New York public library and Esther Davis, the recently appointed library teacher, there will be instruction in the use of a dictionary card catalog, with practice in making simple entries; the use of ordinary reference books; the usual mechanical work of a library; desk work, with practice in the school library, which is to be modeled after a branch of the N. Y. P. L.; the care of books, in-

cluding 20 weeks (four periods each) of bookbinding; office methods, including alphabetical filing and typewriting. The chief feature is the course in general information and classification. It occupies five periods a week for the two years, uses the D. C. as a sort of syllabus, while reference books and the shelves of the school and public libraries are sources of information. Definitions and all sorts of relative questions will be looked up, while the subdivisions of the classes and subjects are gradually studied. As much time will be given to each topic as is needed for sufficient study thereof. The course is an experiment and details must be worked out gradually. It promises to be most interesting, both for teachers and for pupils.

Library Schools

Carnegie library of Atlanta

On December 7, in a personal interview with Miss Wallace, director, Mr Carnegie stated that he would make the library school of the Carnegie library of Atlanta permanent and would place the annual income in charge of the board of trustees of the library.

Carnegie library of Pittsburgh

The jury of award of the Jamestown exposition have awarded to the Training school for children's librarians a gold medal for the exhibit of photographs, placards and publications illustrating the objects, scope and results of the training school and a bronze medal for the installation. Gertrude Andrus, children's librarian of the central building of Pittsburgh, was in charge of the exhibit and also held story hours for young and old in the Exposition auditorium.

The fall term of the training school closed December 21. The technical lectures given during the term were: Order and accession, Handwriting and printing, Classification, Children's literature, Organization of the story hour, Work with schools, Home libraries, Work with

colored clubs. December 4 the school visited the Heinz manufactories and the welfare work done by the company for the employees.

The special lectures for the term were planned for the inspiration of the class and for instruction in story-telling. They were as follows:

Lutie E. Stearns: Pittsburgh ideals, Problem of the boy, Problem of the girl, Library beautiful, Western phases of library work.

J. I. Wyer, jr: Librarianship.

Emma R. Neisser: Work with the blind.

Dr Valfrid Palmgren: Swedish libraries.

W. H. Brett: Organization of the Cleveland public library.

T. J. Cobden-Sanderson: The book beautiful.

Montrose J. Moses: Social forces in children's literature, The experimental temptation, Children's rooms and the one child—a layman's view. The sustaining power of books.

Caroline Burnite: Little children's books.

Mary Emogene Hazeltine: The development of the title page, Modern printers' marks.

Sara Cone Bryant: The uses of story-telling in education, The choice of a story, The preparation of stories, The art of reading aloud, Story-hour for children.

Helen Underwood Price: Books for girls between the ages of 9 and 11, Books for girls between the ages of 11 and 15, Love stories for older girls.

Charles F. Underhill: Reading from Dickens' Christmas carol.

Drexel institute

The library class had the pleasure of hearing T. J. Cobden-Sanderson lecture on the Book beautiful at the Free library on November 22. Mr Sanderson also gave an address on the Arts and crafts movement at the institute on November 20. An exhibit of fine bindings and printing of the Doves Bindery and Doves Press was held during the week of Mr

Sanderson's visit to Philadelphia in the court of the institute.

The students also had the privilege of attending the Library round-table meeting held at the institute under the auspices of the Free library commission on November 21.

The Graduates' association of the library school held their annual meeting on November 13, which was followed by a reception to the class of 1908. The social part of the evening was devoted to a musical guessing contest, which afforded much amusement.

Valfrid Palmgren, assistant librarian of the Royal library, Stockholm, Sweden, visited the Library school on November 29.

Graduate notes

Mrs Lillian Rhoades MacDowell, class of '95, has resigned her position as librarian of the Pedagogical library, Board of education, Philadelphia.

Ada F. Liveright, class of '96, has been made librarian of the Pedagogical library, Board of education, Philadelphia. Miss Liveright has been on the staff of the College of physicians' library for the past five years.

Anna B. Day, class of '01, was married November 5 to William O. Schoonover of Connellsville, Pa.

Mary T. Carleton, class of '05, has been appointed assistant in the Harlem branch, New York public library.

Carolina F. Lauman, class of '07, has been appointed cataloger in the College of physicians' library, Philadelphia.

Nella Martin, class of '07, has been appointed assistant in the Library of Congress.

ALICE B. KROEGER, Dir.

Pratt institute

The first term of the year, including the two weeks of preliminary practice, passed off unusually well as to weather and satisfactorily in other respects.

The beginning of class-room work, October 1, was made more than ordinarily auspicious by the presence and inspiring addresses of Miss Stearns, of the Wisconsin commission, and Miss

Palmgren, of the Royal Library of Sweden, and the school was visited unofficially by Miss Steenberg, of Denmark, daughter of the Danish commissioner of libraries.

The regular work of the term has gone smoothly, the only serious change in the curriculum being the substitution of Mrs Elizabeth Spalding for the director in the conduct of the course in foreign fiction, and, of minor importance, an earlier beginning on the optional work in typewriting, bringing the class sooner to the ability to type-write their own lists, etc.

Among the opportunities offered the school, aside from their school routine, have been three lectures at the institute; one by W. J. Henderson, of the New York *Sun*, on Impulse and idea in music; by Dr C. T. Winchester, of Wesleyan university, on The lake poets, and by Dr Norman Grenfell on his work in Labrador.

A visit to the Greenpoint settlement, and one to the various departments of Pratt institute itself, were made by the school, as is customary each year during the fall term, that the class may have some conception of the whole of which the library school forms a part.

It is hoped, at present writing, to engage Mr Cobden-Sanderson for his three technical lectures on bookbinding. In order to present this subject to the school with greater fullness and accuracy than heretofore, Miss Rathbone, instructor in the subject, is taking a series of lessons at Rademaeker's bindery in Newark.

The school has attended meetings of the New York and Long Island library clubs, at which interesting programs were presented.

The Graduates' association of the school gave a Hallowe'en reception to the entering class, and this, with one or two teas given to lecturers and the days "at home" of the faculty, constitute the social record of the term.

The list of lecturers for the winter is, so far as engaged, as follows:

December 10. Mrs. S. C. Fairchild, Presidents of the A. L. A.

January 6. A. E. Bostwick, The A. L. A.

January 14. Jessie Hume, The building up of a library system.

January 21. J. C. Dana, Printing.

January 28. Anna C. Tyler, Picture-bulletin work.

February 4. H. W. Kent, Library training as a fitting for museum work.

February 11. Theresa Hitchler, Library work in New York state.

February 28. Myra Poland, Problems of the town library.

March 3. Annie C. Moore, Children's books.

March 10. Annie C. Moore, Work for children in libraries.

March 17. Mary E. Hall, The library in the secondary school.

Movements of graduates

Leora Cross, 1907, was engaged for one month to give instructions to the staff of the Danbury (Conn.) public library.

Marian Glenn, 1907, is reorganizing the Public library of Junction City, Kan.

Elizabeth Clark, 1907, has been appointed branch librarian of the Portland (Ore.) library association.

Stella Wiley, 1907, has been engaged as children's librarian of the Public library of Lincoln, Neb.

Edith Dwight, 1906, has been appointed librarian of Guelph agricultural college, Ontario.

Jessie Balston, 1905, has been made acting librarian of the Brooklyn training school for teachers.

Cora K. Dunnells, 1905, has been appointed to a cataloging position in the office of the Superintendent of documents, Washington, D. C.

Annette Ward, 1904, has resigned her position in the Columbia university library and gone to California for the winter, for reasons of health.

Laura Sikes, 1900, has been appointed assistant organizer of the Minnesota library commission.

Ada Chapple, 1900, has resigned from the Library of Congress, and announces her engagement to J. S. Cotton of Washington, D. C.

Edith Hunt, 1895, has been given a year's leave of absence from the Brooklyn public library to take special courses in literature and language at Radcliff college.

Mrs Luther Birdsall (née Hanford), 1895, has been engaged as temporary cataloger by the Pennsylvania university library.

Mary Miller, 1894, was married to Charles Sumner Gale, on September 15.

MARY W. PLUMMER, Dir.

Syracuse university

Margaret Hawley, 1903, and Ph.B. 1907, began her work in September at the Potsdam normal school as instructor of library methods.

Gertrude Tallman, 1905, was married Oct. 30, 1907, to Ernst Kronshagg, editor and dramatic critic of Milwaukee *Free Press*.

E. Blanche Allen, 1905, was married July 2, 1907, to Charles Tracy Henderson of Cleveland, Ohio.

Imogene Partridge, ex-1905, was married Oct. 15, 1907, to Jerome Bonaparte Fisher jr of Jamestown, N. Y.

Anna B. Callahan, 1906, recently received appointment on the staff of the Syracuse public library.

Nina L. Compson, 1906, has been appointed to the position on the Syracuse university library staff left vacant by the resignation of Miss Carpenter.

Georgia B. Carpenter, 1907, has been engaged as public document cataloger in the Government printing office.

M. J. SIBLEY.

Winona technical institute

Anna R. Phelps, who has been identified with the Indiana school from its organization in 1905, has been appointed state organizer of New York and will enter upon her new duties January 2.

The course in cataloging and subject headings as outlined by Miss Phelps

will be continued by Roxana G. Johnson of the University of Illinois. The following subjects will be given next term: Classification, administration, History of libraries and Bible history, Merica Hoagland, director; Magazine reference work and library buildings, Chalmers Hadley, secretary Library commission of Indiana; Children's library work, Miss Scott, also of the commission; Reference, Miss Moffat, reference librarian of the Indiana state library; Reference work with schools and children's work, Misses Jones and Saltmarsh of the Indianapolis public library; English literature, Prof. W. D. Howe of Indiana university.

During the past month the following have been heard by the schools: Miss Browning, A sketch of the Indianapolis city library; Hewitt Howland, editor of the *Reader*, What is it? giving in detail the methods of preparing, accepting, printing and publishing manuscript; Miss McCurdy, school reference librarian of the Carnegie library at Pittsburgh, presented an interesting review of the work in her department.

Graduates of the school have recently been appointed to the following positions: Bertha Carter, '07, Indiana state library; Esther M. Fleming, '07, Fort Wayne public library; Florence Fox, '06, University of Michigan library; Nannie W. Jayne, '06, Alexandria public library; Bess McCrea, '07, Los Angeles public library.

The *Republic*, of Boston, refers in its editorial columns to the growing need of "bringing within reach of every Catholic a large and carefully selected library." As a potent means to this end, it suggests the creation of a great Catholic reading list in the public library of each city, a library within a library, as it were. The suggestion is an excellent one, and if generally adopted would have the effect of placing within easy reach of the Catholic laity many of the best works of Catholic literature. —*Exchange*.

Library Meetings

District of Columbia—William D. Horgan, librarian of the United States naval observatory, and Carl P. P. Vitz, assistant librarian of the Public library, were the speakers at the monthly meeting of the Library association, held November 20 in the children's room at the Public library.

Mr Horgan told of the origin and growth of the Naval observatory library. The observatory, established in 1830 through the efforts of Lieut. L. M. Goldsborough, was at first merely a depot for the storing and testing of chronometers and other nautical instruments belonging to the navy. The importance of the astronomical observations made by the officers in charge of the depot was such as to induce Congress twelve years later to pass an appropriation of \$10,000 for the regular organization and equipment of an observatory to carry on the work. As part of the necessary equipment for the new institution, a library of 1000 v. was immediately secured, many volumes being donated by the various observatories of the old world.

The growth of the library during the 64 years of its existence has been slow, the mere accumulation of volumes not having been the governing principle in the selection of its contents. The collection now numbers about 25,000 v. and pamphlets, and is strongest in the subjects of astronomy and mathematics. As an astronomical library it is said to be surpassed only by the library of Pulkowa observatory in Russia.

The present annual appropriation for the purchase of books is \$750. Many of the most valuable accessions of the library come through the exchange of the publications of the observatory for those of other similar institutions.

The library has a manuscript author catalog on large size cards.

Mr Vitz, who was formerly connected for about nine years with the Cleveland public library, read an interesting paper on American branch library systems. After briefly sketching the history of

branch libraries in the United States, he gave a detailed account of the system of branches in Cleveland. This city now possesses seven branch libraries having permanent collections of books ranging from 10,000 to 22,000 v. and circulating from 76,000 to 153,000 v. a year. The branches are supplemented by 10 sub-branches and a number of deposit stations and delivery stations.

The election by the executive committee of 11 new members of the association was announced at this meeting.

WILLARD O. WATERS, Sec'y.

Indiana—The sixteenth annual meeting of the Indiana library association was held in the state house, Indianapolis, Oct. 17-18, 1907. The attendance was unusually large at each session and the interest was sustained throughout the entire program.

The first session was held Thursday afternoon, with the president, Virginia Tutt, in the chair. It was opened with a short address by the president, in which she said the association was to be congratulated upon having with them as active members some who were the cause of the association's being and the vigorous growth to which the increasing membership attests is due in no small way to the careful planning of the charter members. She urged the thought to be, not that these meetings were formal affairs, but rather a common ground where each would get and give something for the good of all and in the line of progress for which all associations should and do stand. Gov. J. Frank Hanley then spoke a few words which were most cordial in their welcome to the librarians individually and as an association, to the city of Indianapolis and most emphatic in his praise and appreciation of the work being done over the state in the library field.

Following this came the address of the afternoon by Arthur E. Bostwick, president A. L. A., who spoke on Library associations and other associations. Mr Bostwick's address was reviewed at length in the November issue of PUBLIC

LIBRARIES, and it is enough to say here that it was listened to with the closest attention and was enthusiastically received. The Indiana library association feels that it gained from the address a larger understanding of what library associations in general and the A. L. A. in particular represent.

Through some rearrangement of Mr Bostwick's schedule of time, he was able to be present at the evening session also and he spoke informally to the association of Branch libraries and delivery stations of the New York public library. His talk was entertaining, helpful and suggestive in many points. Jacob P. Dunn of Public library commission followed with a most interesting paper on Detective stories. He traced the growth of the detective story, the reason for its absorbing interest and compared the later-day class of these stories with the older detective stories which have become standard.

His paper had many incidents relative to the subject which were humorous and some local, which added much to a paper enjoyed by all.

The meeting then adjourned to the library commission rooms for an informal social session, at which the librarians were the guests of the Bobbs-Merrill Co., Indianapolis.

The third session was held on Friday morning and the program was opened with a paper on Indiana archives by Harlow Lindley, Earlham college library, who emphasized the importance of collecting both the material and information regarding early history of Indiana and urged each library to do this work in its own community. This was followed by a round-table talk with Eliza G. Browning, librarian of Indianapolis public library, as leader. The subject for the round-table was the children's room, and the phases of the work considered were

- 1) Advertising the children's room.
- 2) Miss Hassler's lectures at the Winona institute library school.

3) Cataloging books in children's room.

4) Reference work with schools.

5) Children's reading and selection of books.

These topics were presented by Laura M. Sikes, Fort Wayne; Ella Saltmarsh, Indianapolis; Mrs S. C. Hughes, Terre Haute, and Carrie E. Scott, Indianapolis; Florence Jones and Miss Phelps, both of Indianapolis, in the order named. The points in each department of work were well taken and interestingly presented to the association.

It was a great disappointment to the association that Cedric Chivers, who was to have given a talk upon bookbinding, was unable to be present, a cable dispatch having called him to England a few days before the meeting. In place of this the association, by invitation of a local bindery, visited their workrooms and saw and had explained to them "the book in the making."

At the fourth and last session of the meeting the association was so fortunate as to have with them Miss Ahern, editor of *PUBLIC LIBRARIES*, and at whose instigation, 16 years ago, the Indiana library association was formed. In response to a request Miss Ahern, in her usual happy manner, spoke words of encouragement and congratulation, which were greatly appreciated by the association.

Chalmers Hadley, secretary of the Public library commission, followed with a talk on library development in Indiana. He gave some interesting statistics in regard to the establishing of new libraries, the increasing number of traveling libraries, the growth of library interest in the state and the work of the commission in its various departments. It is a matter of pride as well as of pleasure to the association that such a favorable report could be made by Mr Hadley.

An interesting round-table on Smaller libraries was led by Ella Corwin, librarian of Elkhart. Miss Corwin opened the round-table talk with a short, interesting paper summarizing the function

of a library. This was followed by Miss Chipman, Anderson, who spoke of work with clubs; Miss Mason, Sullivan, Business men in the library (see *P. L.* 12:390; Miss Pierce, Michigan City, Reference work, and Miss Jessup, Laporte, Public documents. These particular features were each well presented and showed the discriminating attention being given to every department of library work. Artena Chapin, Muncie, chairman of the salary committee appointed at the 1906 meeting, then read a very carefully prepared, interesting and in some respects a surprising report compiled by her from statistics gathered by the committee during the year. This report was relative to the preparation required for the position of librarian, income and size of library, hours of labor and number of assistants in comparison with the compensation received for such service. Mr Hadley suggested that this report be filed with the commission for future reference. This suggestion, after considerable discussion, was so well received that a motion was carried to file the report as read together with other data not presented, but which had been collected by the committee, in the office of the library commission for future reference.

Demarchus C. Brown, state librarian, then spoke upon the need of a state library building. He stated that the cramped condition of their present quarters retarded expansion in certain directions and urged upon the libraries represented at this meeting to present the subject to each of their constituencies.

The following for officers were elected: President, Harlow Lindley, Earlham college library; vice-president, Katherine Chipman, Anderson; secretary, Ella F. Corwin, Elkhart; treasurer, D. C. Brown, Indianapolis. VIRGINIA TUTT.

Kansas—The seventh annual meeting of the Kansas library association was held in Newton, Kan., October 9-11.

The fact that each meeting is pronounced "the best," proves the associa-

tion to be a growing power for good in the library interests of the state.

Wednesday afternoon was spent in visiting the pretty library of Newton, in welcoming new members, and renewing pleasant acquaintances of past meetings. The reception given in the evening was most enjoyable.

J. W. Patterson, president of the Newton library board, welcomed the librarians, as did also Mrs Gaston Boyd, in behalf of the clubs of the city, and O. J. Silverwood, in behalf of the teachers and schools of Newton.

Miss Romig of Abilene, president of the association, responded in her usual happy manner.

Lt.-Col. Ezra B. Fuller, librarian of the United States Staff college, Fort Leavenworth, then gave a most interesting paper on Federal libraries in the United States. The number and size of these libraries, and the work accomplished was a surprise to everyone. Stereopticon views were a most delightful feature of this paper. At the close of Colonel Fuller's paper, the audience repaired to the basement, where refreshments were served.

The morning session of October 10 opened with the president's address. In this, Miss Romig gave a résumé of present library conditions in Kansas. Statistics gathered from various sources show the following:

Public school libraries, 3835; supported by Federal government, 6; supported by State government, 26; Y. M. C. A. reading rooms, 21; traveling libraries, 350; college libraries, 15; public libraries, 60; total, 4313.

The Dewey system of classification is most extensively used. Only three libraries reported the expansive and one the Poole. Card or printed catalogs, or both, are used in some libraries, but there are too many without either classification or catalog, and not a few without regular librarians.

Salaries paid in Kansas are almost without exception below those paid in states having library commissions.

There are 22 Carnegie libraries in the state, at an aggregate cost of \$500,000. Many other substantial libraries have been built by donations from philanthropic citizens.

Many library buildings are unsuited to library needs. The state should have a competent officer to superintend the construction or plans of library buildings. While Kansas is rich in Public school libraries, there is a waste of material and opportunity by the non-recognition of the fact that books must have special handling to make their contents accessible. Few school libraries are properly cataloged, and many have neither catalog nor librarian. In most communities it would be to the interest of all to unite the public and school libraries under a competent head.

This outline indicates sufficiently the need for state help.

Miss Romig urged the immediate election of a temporary library organizer to be maintained by subscriptions from libraries and women's clubs until the legislature makes the office a state one. She also urged the organization of district library clubs. These would tend to cultivate library spirit and furnish local help to librarians far from books and library centers.*

J. L. King, librarian of the State library at Topeka, reported on the organizer bill.

Mr King took up the subject from its inception at the meeting of the K. L. A. in Lawrence in 1906, and in a clear and concise manner followed its development to the close of the effort to secure the establishment of such an office by the state.

Mr King stated that he prepared the bill as suggested and submitted it to the committee of the house, with such information as was necessary to place

*In response to Miss Romig's request, the Federation of clubs later passed resolutions promising to assist the K. L. A. in securing a state organizer. Pursuant to said action Miss Romig issued a circular letter to the clubs of the state, requesting subscriptions to aid in placing an organizer in the field, for a short time at least.

the matter properly before them. But he found the committee unfavorable to the proposition, and against this sentiment no headway could be made. The bill was afterward introduced and passed in the senate, but too late for consideration in the house, even if the feeling in the latter body had been favorable instead of adverse.

Asa Don Dickinson, librarian of the Leavenworth public library, then took up the discussion, and proceeded to thoroughly shatter the objections advanced by the legislators, and, continuing, gave a comprehensive outline of the work accomplished in other states and the need of such an officer in our own; and ended with a careful outline of his many duties and necessary qualifications.

Mrs Evelyn S. Lewis, librarian of the Topeka public library, said:

It seems to me there cannot be two opinions in regard to the usefulness of a state organizer of libraries. I have had letters from all parts of the state asking for help. Mr Dana's little handbook, *Library Primer* has been loaned many times. In fact, the last time it was mailed, the appreciation was so great it has never been returned.

Mrs Lewis then told of the numerous trials which beset the new unorganized library, all of which could be obviated by the willing, capable services of a state organizer. She also spoke of the advantages to be gained by a library clearing house.

The association then considered the proposition of a temporary organizer, to be supported by the clubs of the state, which resulted in the appointment of Mr Dickinson as organizer.

It was decided that the library to which the organizer was giving his services should pay his expenses and his time be paid from the organizer fund.

Mary Lee, librarian of the Public library, Manhattan, then took up the subject of

Book selection and book buying

The books and the reader are the two complimentary and essential elements of a library's existence, and all things else, including the librarian, are subsidiary to the end of bringing together the books and the people that belong to each other.

Who should select the books? I think the public should have what it wants, within reason, of course. If left to one person it should naturally be the librarian, but the best method is the librarian aided by a committee, so that several people are responsible. As aids in selection there are public calls, of which a list should be kept, the A. L. A. book list, publishers' announcements and a long list of magazine reviews, all of which should be judiciously used. What kind of books should we buy? This depends on the kind of a library and the local needs. The fiction problem is always with us. The liking for stories is a universal taste and a proper one. But we should aim to keep our standard as high as possible.

The reference side of a library's usefulness should be encouraged and strengthened.

Government documents may be invaluable, but it seems to be difficult to know how to use them.

When shall we buy? Lists of secondhand books often contain a long-awaited-for book at a reasonable price. Your local book dealer may make you a special price on desirable books on his shelves, not, of course, new publications, or they may be slightly shopworn. He may be able to give you the same prices on books as the wholesale houses, and it is always desirable to trade with home dealers if possible. Otherwise a reliable wholesale house will always give satisfaction.

What shall we give the children? It seems impossible to get enough animal stories and books about Indians.

I want to emphasize the recommendation of the purchase of the seven

books that Scribners are to issue in special library bindings. It is a matter of importance because it is a beginning of what will be a great help to all libraries; and the continuance of the movement will depend on the encouragement given. This course also will show our appreciation of the efforts of the A. L. A.

Mrs Sara Judd Greenman of the Public library of Kansas City, Kan., then opened the discussion, dwelling on the point that it was so difficult to obtain an unbiased opinion as to the real merits of children's books.

Because of difference in point of view scarcely any adult reader can speak with certainty of how any story will impress a child; and also because of this lasting impression and because character is formed by what attention is attracted to most persistently, therefore we should look closely after the books we put into the hands of our children. The characteristics of the heroine of eighteenth century fiction are summed up in the following:
Maria so attentive grew.

So thoughtful and polite;
Her friends admired and loved her,
too,

For *all* she did was right.

Perhaps the pendulum has swung a little too far the other way when we think of the numerous calls for Peck's Bad boy, of the deep interest in Huckleberry Finn, Tom Sawyer and other realistic tales. Somewhere between these two extremes, we must find the books that are suitable for our boys and girls and will hold their interest. We must teach them to read and to love good books and so, by an acquaintance with good literature, lead them all unconsciously into a reading habit that will grow with their growth and strengthen with their strength.

Mrs Greenman urged the necessity of coöperation between schools and library; and in regard to book agents said there is only one rule, never to

be violated, and that is, buy nothing whatever from an agent.

In speaking of bindings, Mrs Greenman indorsed the Chivers' bindings, with the exception of discouraging delays.

The afternoon session opened with a paper by Miss Stuckey of the State normal library, Emporia, on

Public documents in small libraries

Miss Stuckey gave some excellent suggestions on the do and the don't of the public document puzzle. She said in part:

The value of many of these documents is inestimable, but they must be carefully chosen from lists provided for that purpose by eminent authorities, after serious study by the librarian. Let her not think, however, that because a little is good there may not be too much of the thing. If her congressman, with "shining morning face," offers to make her little library a depository library for the thousands of government documents issued each year, let her not wait upon her answering, but answer at once in fervent, grateful, decided accents, Thank you, no. She should select not largely, but with care, and choose and collect the works that are really worth while in her locality.

In the discussion which followed, the sentiment was developed that small libraries should not become depositories.

Miss Francis, of the State historical library, Topeka, then gave a most interesting and instructive paper on

Libraries in state institutions

Kansas has 12 state institutions, nine of which are under the supervision of the Board of control, and the remaining three under separate management. The libraries of these institutions have been of slow growth.

The hospital for the insane at Osawatomie, with a population of over 1200 patients, has a library of 500 v., which includes periodicals. The superintendent of the hospital selects the

books, most of which are fiction. They are taking about 25 periodicals. The library is very generally used by both the inmates and employes, and the books are found of benefit to the institution.

The Topeka state hospital for the insane has over 1000 patients in the hospital and a library of some 419 v. In addition to this, a large number of periodicals are subscribed for, and much literature is contributed by friends in Topeka. The greatest per cent is standard fiction.

The hospital for epileptics at Parsons has a population of 355 patients. No library as yet, but one soon to be established.

The state industrial school for boys at Topeka has 200 boys and a library of about 968 v. They keep an accession book and a simple shelf list. The institution is taking some periodicals. The library is largely juvenile, since the boys are under 16 years of age when sent and seldom remain to the age limit of 21 years. The boys publish a paper and now have a monthly edition of 375 copies.

The industrial school for girls at Beloit has a library of 2258 v., with a population of 180 inmates. A very small per cent of the library is fiction, and while the collection is miscellaneous, it is built along lines most helpful to the development of character. They are taking 15 copies of the *Youths' Companion*.

The school for feeble-minded youth at Winfield has 360 children in the institution and the library contains 326 v., 90 per cent of which is fiction.

The soldier's orphans' home at Atchison has as yet made no provision for a library, the books they have, being donated. There are 148 children in the home. There should be great possibilities for a children's library here.

The state school for the deaf at Olathe, as is also the state school for the blind, is an educational one, and not an asylum. No pupils are kept at

the school during the yearly vacations. There are about 250 pupils enrolled at the school for the deaf and the library consists of 2200 v. They have a general collection of books, but are on the lookout for juvenile literature particularly. Creating the reading habit in the deaf is one of the difficulties of their education.

The school for the blind at Kansas City has this year an average attendance of 75. There are about 2500 v. in the library and it is kept up by appropriation from the United States government, no state appropriation ever having been made for the purchase of point books. It is miscellaneous and is intended to be supplemental for the regular school work. Several copies of the *Matilda Zeigler Magazine for the Blind* are received, also copies of the *Young People's Herald*, a religious publication printed in New York point. A sufficient number of the *Sunday School Weekly*, an abstract of Peloubet's notes, is taken to conduct the Sunday school services. This institution is preparing to loan books from its library to responsible blind people over the state, using the United States franking privilege granted by the government.

The state penitentiary at Lansing reports 5413 v. in the library. So-called light literature has the greatest circulation. The statistics for 1906 shows the fiction circulation as 15,828. Religion followed with a circulation of 1814 books, science 1702, travel 1289 and poetry 1282. This report is an exceedingly good one and shows besides system, a deep interest in the work and an effort to raise the standard of literature read by men in the prison.

The state soldier's home at Ft. Dodge has a library of 1200 v., takes 15 monthly magazines, 15 weekly, 10 semi-weekly and four daily papers.

The industrial reformatory at Hutchinson has a library of 2602 v., with a population of 400 prisoners.

The books are such as would be found in the average public library. Are classified by the Dewey decimal system, main divisions only being used. They have a printed catalog. A form of discipline at the reformatory said to be very efficacious is to deprive the offending prisoner of the use of the library for a time commensurate with the offense.

The greater per cent of these libraries is fiction, but what does it matter if through that door comes the knowledge and love of books?

Some students of this phase of library work advocate 60 per cent fiction for all institutions except the hospitals for the insane and the soldiers' homes. These to have 75 per cent. For the insane, it is entertainment that is sought; the getting them away from hallucinations that blind; from the central thought constantly reiterated that has proved their mental undoing. Would not the yellowest of yellow-backed novels be sanctified if it achieved such an end? And the old soldier? Well, the old soldiers have surely earned the right to read "any old stuff" they may want to and they are too old to reform anyway.

Mrs Delia E. Brown gave a short report of the A. L. A. meeting of 1907, and urged that as many as possible plan to attend the 1908 meeting to be held at Lake Minnetonka.

This report was followed by a two-minute report from new libraries and of new features in old.

The following officers were elected:

President, Clara Francis, Topeka; vice-presidents, Mrs Rosa N. Hibbard, Topeka; Dora Renn, Lawrence; Rebecca Kiner, Hiawatha; member at large, Mrs. Sara Judd Greenman, Kansas City; secretary, Nellie G. Beatty, Lawrence; treasurer, Mrs Delia E. Brown, Salina.

The advisory committee for 1907-8 is as follows: Mrs Sara Judd Greenman, chairman, Carrie M. Watson and J. L. King.

Mrs Greenman invited the associa-

tion to hold its next meeting in the two Kansas cities. This will be a joint meeting with the Missouri library association. Miss Sheldon of Ottawa asked for the 1909 meeting.

At the evening meeting, Arthur E. Bostwick, chief of the circulating department of the New York public library and president of the American library association, delivered an address on Library associations in general and the American library association in particular.

Mr Bostwick urged librarians to become members of the A. L. A. and to help in every way possible with the work it is trying to accomplish.

An association, like a man, should seek to do the work that lies before it with all its strength, and to keep that strength at its maximum of efficiency. So doing, it may rest content, that be its accomplishment large or small, its place in the history of human endeavor is worthy and secure.

On Friday morning the librarians were taken over the city in automobiles, a delightful finish to a very successful meeting.

NELLIE G. BEATTY, Sec'y.

Minnesota—The second meeting of the Twin City library club for the season of 1907-8 was held in Minneapolis, December 3, the first meeting having been merged with the annual meeting of the Minnesota library association, which occurred in St Paul and Minneapolis the last week in September.

Forty members were present at supper, which was served in the children's room of the Minneapolis public library. Following the supper a brief business session was held, with Miss Countryman, president of the club, in the chair. Miss Countryman, as chairman of the committee appointed last year to make an effort to secure the A. L. A. conference at Minnetonka, reported the successful outcome of the work assigned to the committee and suggested that the next task before the club was the perfection of local arrangements for the conference.

Upon motion of Mr Gerould, it was voted that a general committee of three should be appointed by the president to have charge of all local arrangements, with power to appoint such sub-committees as are found necessary.

The program of work for the coming year was discussed, the executive committee reporting that the programs would include a general study of the arts allied to bookmaking, such as book illustration, printing and binding.

The club then adjourned to the Bureau of engraving, where a delightful evening was spent examining the various processes used in photo reproduction, from the preparation of the drawing or photograph to the finishing of the half-tone plate.

CLARA F. BALDWIN, Secy.

North Dakota—The second annual meeting of the North Dakota library association was held at Grand Forks, November 1-2, with representatives present from libraries in Minnesota as well as North Dakota.

The meeting opened at the public library with an address of welcome by the president of the association, Prof. Frank J. Thompson. A delightful paper on the Child and the library was read by Ida Schaefer, librarian of the Fargo public library. This paper was followed by an interesting and helpful one on Reference work in the small library, by Mabel G. West of the Valley City normal library. The paper on the Relation of the high school to the library, by Leroy Jackson, superintendent of schools, Larimore, was excellent and brought out a great deal of discussion because of the stress the author of the paper laid upon the dependence of the high school upon the library.

A paper on Public documents, read by Mrs Ethel McVeety of the Agricultural college, was most instructive and interesting. The afternoon session ended with a discussion of Mrs McVeety's paper, after which the visitors were driven about to see the city.

An address on Reading, by Prof.

Gottfried E. Hult of the State university, was given at the Public library in the evening, to which a large and appreciative audience listened. A reception was given to the visitors by the Board of directors of the Public library, during which time all were given an opportunity of seeing the library and an exhibition of Indian pictures, taken and loaned by Dr O. G. Libby of the State historical society.

The morning session of Saturday was opened with a paper on A socialized library, by Dr John M. Gillette of the State university, which contained much "food for thought" along the line of the coöperation that should exist between the townspeople and the library. A business meeting followed, at which the executive committee was elected as follows: Frank J. Thompson, Fargo, president; Mabel G. West, Valley City, vice-president; Elizabeth Abbott, Grand Forks, secretary-treasurer; Dr Max Batt, Fargo, and George F. Strong, University.

A short and interesting talk was given by Zana K. Miller, outlining the work to be undertaken by the newly organized State library commission, to direct which Miss Miller has lately been appointed.

The afternoon and closing session was held at the State university, where a reception was extended and an opportunity given to see the buildings and inspect the University library. The meeting was opened with a paper by Dr O. G. Libby on the North Dakota historical society. Dr Libby's paper was followed by one by H. C. Fish of Bismarck on a Legislative reference library, mentioning the possibilities of such a library in North Dakota. George F. Strong, librarian of the university library, spoke of the collection of Scandinavian literature in the library, especially the Icelandic literature, which is perhaps the second largest and best collection in the United States. A short address was made on the North Dakota state library commission by

Walter L. Stockwell, superintendent of public instruction, after which a round-table was conducted by Zana K. Miller and Elizabeth Abbott.

ELIZABETH ABBOTT, Sec'y-Treas.

Pennsylvania—The Pennsylvania free library commission held a round-table meeting for the libraries in the vicinity of Philadelphia at Drexel institute, Nov. 21, 1907. Two papers were given at the morning session. The first, on Library housekeeping, by Jean Middleton, of the Apprentice's library, of Philadelphia; and the second, on Library makeshifts, by Helen B. Schmitz, of the Coishohocken free library. Both papers were written largely from personal experience and provoked a lively debate.

The afternoon meeting was opened by Miss Kroeger, of Drexel institute, with a discussion of the new code for cataloging a small library, and this was followed by a question box presided over by Sarah B. Askew of the New Jersey commission. Both Miss Kroeger's talk and the question box aroused not a little good-humored difference of opinion. Later in the afternoon tea and cakes were served by the students of the Drexel institute library school.

The evening session was devoted to the subject of library advertising. Arthur L. Bailey, of Wilmington, read a paper based on his experience in the Wilmington library and gave many practical suggestions for a small library.

Public Document Queries

"To collect documents is one mode of serving your country, and to remember the contents of a document is another." (George Eliot in *Middlemarch*.)

Because many small libraries have a confusion of public documents, there is much perplexity as to what course to pursue in regard to them that shall reduce them to a state of order and a consequent useful collection. Questions in regard to them are being asked over and over until it has seemed best to col-

lect in one place the answers, so that there may be a saving of time and labor by having in print the answers to these questions, to which inquirers may be referred.

Everyone is cordially invited to use this department, and all questions will be given the same attention as though a personal answer were sent.

Questions should be sent to the editor of this department, A. R. Hasse, 425 Lafayette street, New York City. Signatures will be considered confidential and will be answered, as far as possible, in order of receipt. In the answers to questions concerning arrangement and matters other than cataloging it will be stated whether the library from which the question emanates is a public, reference or college library.

Question 1. Will you kindly indicate what official author this and other orderly books should have? Although this is a private publication, an official entry seems due the official matter.

Orderly book of that portion of that American army stationed at or near Williamsburg, Va., under the command of General Andrew Lewis, from March 18, 1776, to Aug. 28, 1776, printed from the original manuscript, with notes and introduction by Charles Campbell, esq. Richmond, privately printed, 1860. Historical documents from the Old Dominion, no. 1, xi. 100 pp. sq. o.

Orderly books correspond to the various series of orders, general orders, special orders, etc., issuing from the War Department today. The term "orderly book" is applied, however, only to this sort of record kept by the officers of the continental army. All the official publications of this period, i e, that of the Continental Congress, are fairly well known. They easily divide themselves into two groups, viz: Collected documents, as the Journals, and Uncollected or Individual documents.

Whatever official author heading a library may adopt for the Continental Congress, it is well to keep these two groups of publications separated by means of guide cards. The arrangement of the uncollected or individual

documents should then be by date, not alphabetical by title. In addition to the official author the title cited by the writer would naturally require a title entry and a series, as well as a subject entry. No orderly books are found in Ford's bibliography of the Continental Congress. I am not aware that any were contemporaneously published. It may be questioned by some whether they should properly be given an official author at all.

Question 2. Are the charters represented by the following cataloged correctly as to author as they now stand, or should they be put under Mass. charters or Mass. Bay, or what?

Great Britain. Crown. William III and Mary.

The charter of the province of the Massachusetts Bay in New England. [1692.] 12 pp. (In Mass. Bay Colony and Province. General Court. Acts and laws. Boston. 1742-58.)

* * *

Great Britain. Crown. George I.

The explanatory charter granted by His Majesty King George I to the province of Massachusetts Bay in New England, 1726]. (In Massachusetts Bay Colony and province. General Court. Acts and laws. Pref. pp. 13-14. Boston. 1742-58.)

A charter is the organic act of a corporation. This may be a railroad company, a monastery, a town or city or a British province. It is not an enactment of the corporation, so, technically, the corporation can hardly be spoken of, in this case, as the official author. But the instrument, granted by a higher legislative power, and giving administrative life to the corporation, is more properly associated with the grantee than with the grantor. It is proper to enter all charters under the corporation chartered. The two instances cited by the writer are the royal charter and the explanatory charter of the Province of Massachusetts Bay. I do not think there is much uniformity among libraries in the form of author entry for the British colonies. Wherever a library enters what publications it may have of the Province of Massachusetts Bay, there it should enter the charter of that province.

News from the Field

Canada

Mrs Charlotte Nichols has left, by will, property to the value of \$20,000 for the Public library at Peterboro, Ont.

A resolution recently introduced and adopted by the Public library board of Woodstock, Ont., declares the recent increase in postage on United States periodicals to be a mistake, adding:

"The attempt to force on the Canadian people a preference for the literature belonging to another and far continent was unwise and calculated to defeat its own purpose. The Canadian people are naturally more interested in the affairs of the American continent than in the affairs of any other part of the world, and they most naturally depend on the literature of the North American continent for both their enlightenment and their entertainment. More than that, there is danger that the very attempt to force British periodicals on a free people will have the very opposite effect from that intended."

In discussing the matter of accommodation in case the A. L. A. meeting of 1909 is held in Canada a letter recently received from Ottawa states that all difficulties in the way of the proposed new hotel have been removed and the project is already under way.

"The Grand Trunk is spending a million on the new station and a million and a half to two millions on the hotel, which is to be called the Chateau Laurier. The architect, Gilbert of New York, has promised that the hotel will be completed in the spring of 1909, so that, barring accidents, we can count on it as headquarters. It is to stand in Major's Hill park, facing the Parliament buildings, with the Ottawa river 150 feet below and the Laurentians in the background—about as fine a site as could be found anywhere. The hotel will be connected with the station by a subway."

Central Atlantic

E. Louise Rockwood, New York '07, has been appointed librarian of the Public library, Olean, N. Y.

Arne Kildal, B. L. S., New York '07, has been appointed assistant in the catalog division of the Library of Congress.

For three months past Mr Kildal has been assisting as catalog reviser at Yale university library.

Jennie A. Witmer has been appointed librarian of the Public library, Niagara Falls, N. Y.

Helen Louise Mudge, New York '07, has been appointed assistant in the Public library of the District Columbia, Washington, D. C.

The Maryland state library commission has engaged J. Herbert Stabler as field secretary. He will endeavor to organize library associations in communities where none exist.

The Wilmington institute free library, Wilmington, Del., has fitted up a room for the use of blind patrons, with a special attendant in charge. The city council has appropriated \$1250 for it.

The Public library of Washington, D. C., has established a musical section. This has been established by the co-operation of manufacturers of the music rolls. These music rolls for automatic piano playing will be loaned the same as books.

Bertha S. Wildman of Madison, N. J., has been appointed secretary to Anderson H. Hopkins, librarian at the Carnegie library, Pittsburgh, to succeed Mabel A. Frothingham. The latter is to be married soon to W. G. Ball of Detroit, at her home in Augusta, Me.

The Yonkers (N. Y.) public library has opened a teachers' room, shelving there all books, periodicals and reports relating to education, useful to teachers. A system of traveling libraries has been supplied to the outlying engine houses with gratifying success, having a circulation, among the six houses, of 5183 v. The total circulation for the library was 160,709 v.

The report of the Library of Congress for 1907 is one of continued growth and well-balanced extension in its work. The book accessions amount to 64,504 v., while the total entries in the copyright

division reached 123,829. About 9000 carefully selected Japanese works on literature, history and Japanese institutions were added in addition to the Yudin library referred to elsewhere. The division of manuscripts received a number of most valuable collections of material, both by gifts and by purchase. Quite a considerable number of public documents, gifts of foreign governments, as well as state and local governments, have been added. The division of prints had an accession of 39,546 photographs, etchings and engravings. Inter-library loans last year included 106 libraries in 33 different states. The library has reached the rank of third in point of size.

In the report of the librarian of Congress, the most important accession to the library during the past year is said to have been the private library of Gen-nadius Vasilievich Yudin of Krasnoarsk, Siberia. It comprises over 80,000 v.—all relating to Russia and Siberia, and all save about 12,000 in the Russian language. The collection has not yet been tested by the use of investigators. A full estimate of its resources must await such a test.

Krasnoarsk being in the heart of Siberia—near Lake Baikal—the question of transportation to Washington was a serious one. Over 500 packing cases were required, which had to be made to order. The route selected was via European Russia and Germany to Hamburg. Three months were occupied with the manufacture of cases and the packing. The shipment started on February 6 and on April 6 the entire collection was safely stored in the basement of the Library of Congress building.

Central

Three new branch public libraries are to be opened by the Minneapolis (Minn.) public library.

Helen Kennedy, for the past year organizer of the Public library of Kewanee, Ill., has been elected librarian to succeed Miss Gray, who resigned on

account of ill health after many years of successful service.

Elizabeth Ellis, for 16 years reference librarian of Public library, Peoria, Ill., has resigned her position.

Frances Hunter, a graduate of Western Reserve library school, has been appointed librarian of the Steel high school, Dayton, Ohio.

Josephine Powell, for 12 years librarian of St Peter, Minn., has resigned her position. Marion Tyler has been elected to the vacancy.

O. S. Rice of Deerfield, Wis., has been appointed librarian of the school libraries in Wisconsin in charge of Superintendent of public instruction Cary.

Anna R. Phelps, for five years with the Winona technical institute of Indiana, has resigned to become library organizer under the direction of the New York state library.

Mrs Kate A. Henderson, for eight years past librarian of Joliet, Ill., died December 19. She was formerly superintendent of the Joliet schools and was favorably known as an educator.

Alice Goddard, formerly of the Youngstown (Ohio) children's library, will take charge of similar work in the Des Moines public library during the winter. Ruth Gatch, regular librarian in charge, will spend the winter in California.

The annual report of the St Louis public library shows a total circulation for home use of 1,124,716. During the year 35,550 v. were added to the library, making a total of 222,780 v. on the shelves; number of cardholders, 64,804; income from city for library purposes was \$191,409.

The new library building of Earlham college, Richmond, Ind., was dedicated December 3, with appropriate ceremonies. Addresses were made by D. C. Brown, state librarian; C. R. Hadley, secretary of Public library commission; Mrs A. L. Bernhardt, librarian Morri-

son-Reeves library, and by Harlow Linley, librarian of Earlham college.

The annual report of the Galesburg (Ill.) public library shows a total circulation of 122,720 v.; 33,750 v. on the shelves; 126,700 visitors during the year; 1221 books added to the library; 1405 card holders, of which 824 were new. During the year 937 books were sent to the four class-room libraries. The library receives, regularly, 180 periodicals.

The thirty-first annual report of the Public school library of Columbus, Ohio, shows a year of great activity. The number of books in the library is 68,369. During the year the total circulation was 274,927 v. The library was opened 306 days. Every school building in the city has a reference library belonging to the central library, but housed permanently in its own school building.

The Public library commission of Indiana will hold its summer school for 1908 at Earlham college, Richmond, Ind., instead of at Winona Lake, as heretofore. Earlham college has just completed a very good college library building. The library facilities at the college are above the average, while the Richmond public library, one of the good libraries of the state, will be of the greatest value to the school.

The annual report of the Public library of Lansing, Mich., gives the circulation for the past year as 43,807, with 18,506 v. on the shelves and 809 borrowers. The library receives 120 current periodicals. From the rental collection of 438 v. \$129.83 was netted. Seven organizations have had special use of the building; exhibitions of school work and manual training have been held; 34 story-hour periods were held at the main library.

The Cincinnati public library finds the use of the stereopticon helpful in nearly every phase of its work. The last use to which it has been put is in teaching

cataloging in the training class which the library conducts. The apprentices are trained in the use of the catalog by stereopticon views of various kinds of cards thrown on the screen, the instructor describing the card and its use meanwhile. It saves much teaching and study of sample cards.

A. T. Wells, who had charge of the library in Fairfield, Iowa, from 1862 to 1896, died November 3.

Mr. Wells' services were highly valued by those interested in libraries in Iowa. He was a man of sterling qualities, much ability in many lines and contributed freely and heartily to every movement for the betterment, not only of his town, but of the state. Distinguished citizens of Iowa speak in the highest terms of what his lifework meant to the cause of free books in Iowa.

The report of the Indiana library commission for the past year states that the commission has now about 6500 v. of which last year 13,227 v. were circulated through traveling libraries. The work has a steady growth. During the year eight libraries were opened and two library boards completed organization. Merica Hoagland, who has been connected with the commission since its formation, has resigned her position and her duties will be assumed hereafter by the permanent secretary, Chalmers Hadley.

November 2 was Library day in the Public library of Dubuque, Iowa. The program was presented by representatives from the various clubs of the city. Each representative reported on the books in the library dealing with the subject in which their particular club was interested. After each talk there was a discussion and the greatest interest was manifested. The educational division of the Woman's club and the Kindergarten school announced that they would furnish story-tellers for the new work that was begun in this line on December 1. A circular has been sent to the principals and teachers of the public schools

offering special privileges and lists for the use of teachers and schools.

The University of Illinois has recently bought the complete library of Wilhelm Dittenberger, who for 32 years was professor of classical philology in the University of Halle. The library numbers all told 5600 titles. It is rich in epigraphical and paleological works and covers very thoroughly the wide field of classical philology, containing works in the several departments of the Indo-European languages, comparative literature, history of ancient peoples, geography and chronology. The library contains also a collection of between four and five thousand programs and dissertations in the field of classical philology. The library has not been allowed to deteriorate because of disuse, but is the library of a man who was continually at work till the time of his death and contains the most recently published works in the field of study for which it was gathered.

South

Lena Mingea, librarian of Carnegie library, Bessemer, Ala., has resigned her position.

The first of the three branches of the New Orleans (La.) public library, which have been given to that city by Andrew Carnegie, was opened November 25. A program of addresses was presented and at the conclusion the building was thrown open to the inspection of the public.

The Texas library association has issued a list of duplicates prepared by the duplicate exchange committee of the association. This list is sent to the libraries of the state with the hope of establishing coöperation between libraries desiring books and libraries stocked with duplicates. The list does not contain fiction, but is made up largely of solid material and is about equally divided between biography and Poole's sets. The name of the library having the duplicate and the price expected are given.

West

The new Carnegie library of Madison, S. D., was opened to the public on the evening of November 12.

Nellie Ireton has been appointed assistant librarian at the Carnegie library, Boise, Idaho.

Pacific Coast

Milton J. Ferguson, New York '01-2, has resigned his position as librarian of Oklahoma university to succeed William R. Watson as assistant librarian of the California state library.

Stella G. Plimpton, second assistant of the Riverside (Cal.) public library, was married on November 27 to Lyle T. Lewis. Minnie Van Zolenburg was appointed to the position of second assistant.

Foreign

The Cardiff public libraries issues a neat booklet containing a list of free public lectures and data relating to them delivered in the branch libraries of the system during the quarter October-December, 1907, together with lists of books relating to the subjects of the lectures.

The daily press reports a meeting of booksellers and librarians held in Paris recently, to discuss means of correcting what was called a misconception on the part of English-speaking countries regarding the character of French literature. One of the proposed plans was to open an agency in New York city, where the higher class of French literary and scientific books will be offered for sale. A reading room will be attached, where lectures will present the subject of French literature every week. The movement is said to have the encouragement of official circles in France.

For sale—Harper's monthly magazine, in good condition; 84 volumes, \$80. First 78 volumes bound in half morocco. Remainder unbound. Address E. M. Niblack, 109 W. North st., Indianapolis, Ind.

The particularity of library statistics is becoming so minute as to impress the

observer with the painstaking vigilance of librarians and assistants. Sometimes, indeed, a gentle amusement is aroused by the ingenuity displayed in this department of library lore, and the outsider wonders what new task will next be imposed upon the indefatigable statistician. The Public library of Hartford, Conn., has begun to keep count of the questions propounded in its reference room, and now announces a gain of 1156 such queries over last year, the present year's total falling little short of a myriad, without including inquiries for books, maps and other publications kept in the room. Here, too, the contestants in 112 debates were furnished with ammunition for their argumentative encounters, and the department at all times has been crowded with information seekers from every walk of life. Useful applications of, or fruitful deductions from, these as yet rather dry statistics are to be hoped for some day.—*The Dial*.

Herbert Baillie, librarian of the public library of Wellington, N. Z., has been granted a five months' leave of absence to attend the meeting of the A. L. A., 1908, and to visit some of the more important libraries of North America. Mr Baillie has been engaged in library service since 1902, and the Wellington public library is a growing, active institution.

The form of the copyright bill as approved by copyright league:

When imported, for use and not for sale, not more than one copy of any such book in any one invoice, in good faith, by or for any society or institution incorporated for educational, literary philosophical, scientific, or religious purposes, or for the encouragement of the fine arts, or for any college, academy, school, or seminary of learning, or for any State, school, college, university, or free public library in the United States.

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